



KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE SHARING SYMPOSIUM

Towards Highly Rewarding and Inclusive Flood-based Livelihoods

Making Flood and Catchment- Based Livelihood enterprises attractive for young people: Examples from Kenya (Preliminary findings from a PhD research)

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Outline of presentation

Background and objective of presentation

Taking stock of existing flood & catchment - based livelihood enterprises promoted in Kenya

The levels of youth participation in enterprises being promoted

Niche for the youth with regards to livelihood enterprises

Livelihood enterprises that are attractive or seems attractive to the youth: Examples and characteristics

Analysis

Conclusions

Recommendations



FBLS LIVELIHOOD ENTERPRISES



Background to the study

Agriculture still remain the backbone of Kenya's economy contributing 31% of GDP directly and provides 70% of rural employment.

Youth aged between 15-34 years are majority, unemployed and seeking for livelihood opportunities.

Youth below 35 years form 78% of Kenyan population, average unemployment rate is 14,7% but youth unemployment is estimated at 35% depending on age group

It is estimated that 1m young people join the labour market yearly and agriculture if well developed can absorb up to 500,000 youth

The age of an average farmer is 62 years. However low participation of youth in agriculture is real, and the sector remains unattractive to the youth. Thus there is need to get more young people to farming.

Close to food security is water security. The need to have inclusive and sustainable water sources management critical for Kenya vision 2030.

Water resources management provide huge livelihood opportunities for youth, including employment.

However, results from empirical studies on Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs) show youth participation being dismal in WRUA leadership and activities.

The nexus between youth livelihood and employment demand and catchment conservation therefore required rethinking.

BOTH FBLS AND CATCHMENT BASED LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT ENTERPRISES PROVIDE ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH



Research objective and question

This presentation is a subset of bigger study and answers” **what livelihood enhancement enterprises do we need to promote under FBLS to attract, engage and retain youth in FBLS”**

There are livelihood enhancement programs by WARMA/ WRA in Tana and Lake Victoria water basins. Other related livelihood projects have been undertaken by land reclamation in arid and semi arid regions, Flood based farming systems project and irrigation.

The main study aims to establish the influence of catchment & FBLS- based livelihood enhancement enterprises on youth participation in catchment conservation activities in Kenya.



Objective of presentation

To take stock of flood and catchment based livelihood enterprises being promoted by various programs in Kenya.

To establish the level of youth participation in flood & catchment- based livelihood enterprises being promoted.

To understand youth aspiration for the livelihood enterprises- niche for the youth.

To highlight livelihood enterprises that have attracted or seem to attract the youth.

To re think livelihood enterprises promoted under FBLS to make them attractive for the youth.



Methodology

Combination of desk research and initial reconnaissance field research.

Desk study: reviewed various program reports and empirical survey reports on the subject.

Mixed method approach was used for reconnaissance field research: Individual questionnaires, Focused Group Discussions and key informant interviews in the Tana water basin(Kirinyaga, Embu, Machakos and Makueni county 2016).

The Survey captured the thoughts and aspirations of the youth themselves and their leaders.

The responses are being compared and clustered around topical issues while isolating salient responses that highlight differences for each enterprise.



Flood- based livelihood enterprises promoted

Sorghum, Katumani maize, some cowpeas and pastures on pilot -by land reclamation, Turkana Rehabilitation Program (TRP)

Nature / characteristics of the flood-based livelihood enterprises promoted

Cow peas, water melon and green grams by Land Reclamation Garissa Rehabilitation Program (GRP)

Primary purpose is household food security

Sorghum and vegetables- Giz Marsabit and Turkana County

Required at least two-three floods to mature

Grass / pasture- by land reclamation in west Pokot and Baringo county

Required land and suitable soils to undertake

Rice (Ozi and Kau village) water melon and green grams (Feji, sera villages) by Tana River County Government

Preference of the communities for enterprise to grow at times over looked by experts.



Catchment-based livelihood enterprises promoted

WRMA in Tana and Lake Victoria water catchment program promoted the following enterprises:

Tree nurseries, including bamboo

Bee keeping /hives,

Biogas,

Bamboo tree,

Fruit trees,

Energy saving jikos,

Poultry,

Dairy goat and cow and napeir grass,

Irrigated enterprises

Nature / characteristics of the catchment-based livelihood enterprises promoted

Has linkage to water catchment conservation initiatives of the sub catchment.

Has elements of household food security ,income generation and catchment conservation qualities.



Level of youth participation in enterprises promoted

Is a proxy indicator for attractiveness of the enterprises to the rural youth.

Adults dominated most of the FBLS as well as catchment –based enterprises except for tree nurseries and water melon in comparison with youth in promoted enterprises.

The collection of this actual statistics is on going for catchment based enterprises.

The challenge is weak records by land reclamation committees, WRUA officials and county officials.

Level of youth participation- the gender perspective

Entails comparison between male and female youth participation in each enterprise and is critical to understand gender perspective.

More young women than young men have remained without gainful engagement (Giz 2018) .

This is one of the research objectives in the study.



Niche for the youth with regards to livelihood enterprises

Kenyan youth have become impatient and prefer livelihood enterprises characterized by good and quick returns to investment.

Good returns means-over 30% profit according to Embu Youth agribusiness strategy 2019-23

Quick returns – cash within 3 months

Desire for white collar- high profile office jobs

Youth perception on agriculture sector

Majority of youth in Western Kenya have a poor perception of agriculture sector, regarding it as inferior profession only fit for the illiterate, old retirees, poor and terms it profession of last resort.

Have a feeling of a non- functioning sector

They further see agriculture as laborious, dirty, and sign of backwardness.

Lower interest in more tedious, dirty and laborious early stages of the value chains that have too many challenges- water supply, pests management and GAPs.



Youth perceptions on agriculture cont....

The dynamics, fluid nature and precarious biotic and abiotic stresses discourage the youth who desire a smooth sail in life.

Some enterprises have long production cycle and waiting for a crop for over nine months or more in such enterprises as maize and cattle , with no guarantee of returns, is unattractive for a young person desiring quick sources of high incomes.

HOWEVER,

There was incremental positive view about working in later stages of the value chains particularly in value addition, marketing and management levels- judged as more attractive, less tedious, cleaner and nearer to source of money.



Explanation: Why most FBLS/ Catchment -based enterprises are unattractive

Agriculture is a long term investment which makes it unattractive to the youth who desire engagements in enterprises with quick and huge returns.

Most agricultural enterprises, other than horticulture, require up to 6-8 months or beyond before one can realize returns on investment, a period deemed too long by the young and restless youth.

BUT

Is this true for FBLS enterprises?



Examples of successful youth initiatives in agriculture

Bungoma County: Fodder production, Tree nursery production, Value addition of milk and sweet potatoes, poultry, soya beans and oranges, vegetables, tissue culture banana seedlings and papaya.

Kakamega county: Kales under green house, fodder, poultry, aquaculture, bee keeping, vegetables, Sukuma suckers/ seedlings and yams, tomatoes, traditional vegetables, beans, soya beans

Siaya county: tree nurseries and fish farming



Examples of FBLS Enterprises attractive to the young people

Hey/ Pasture production in Kajiado, Baringo and west pokot county

Water melon in Tana River and Garissa

Green maize- Lari Kiambu (ASAL)

Characteristics/ factors influencing attractiveness

Quick rate of returns; within 3 months

Good returns / high value

Ready market / offtaker/ relative ease to markets

Short growing period, easy to grow, low labour requirements and longer shelf life



Examples of Catchment –based enterprises attractive to the young people

Tree nurseries in Embu, Kirinyaga and Nyandarua county

Bamboo tree seedlings-
Nyandarua

Fruit trees, eg avocado, mangoes (several including some ASAL Counties of Makueni, Mkwinda)

Irrigation of horticultural enterprises (8 ADB supported schemes)

Characteristics/ factors influencing attractiveness

Ready market

Quick rate of returns to investment

Good returns / high value

Short growing period, longer shelf life, low labour requirements



Further analysis :making FBLS enterprises attractive to the youth

It is not only about quick and good returns enterprises-other issues came up like less tedious, cleaner and nearer to source of money.

Promote place -relevant interventions, don't generalize, as exposure and training on specific enterprise matter.

Transit to commercial oriented flood-based livelihood enterprises rather than subsistence: - tree seedlings, water melon, khat/ Muguka.

Address challenges hindering productivity/ yields, profitability and sustainable livelihoods enterprises.

Put in place necessary policies to address entry barriers for youth, especially young women, including availability and access of land and financial services.

Entrench sustainability elements – legal, policy, capacity building.



Conclusions

Several programs have promoted flood and catchment –based livelihood enterprises in Kenya. The youth were not the main focus for the enterprises promoted although they have participated to some level.

The exact level of youth participation per enterprise need to be established despite data limitations to support comparisons and decision making.

The youth prefer enterprises characterized by quick and good returns (with guaranteed market)

The youth also prefer enterprises that are less tedious, cleaner and nearer to source of money- marketing, value addition and mangement

FBLS Enterprises that have attracted or seem to attract the youth include water melon, vegetables, pasture/ grasses, tree nurseries



Recommendations

Continue FBLS and Catchment based –enterprises programs but re asses to identify and promote more good and quick returns enterprises with guaranteed market to capture the youth.

Deeper study: Quantify good and quick returns enterprises and use this criteria to assess/ identify the various FBLS enterprises promoted.

Youth not a homogeneous group, tailor enterprises to meet needs for men, female out of school and school going youth. **Listen to the youth**

Address the challenges hindering productivity, profitability and sustainability of livelihoods enterprises of interest to the youth.

Introduce mechanization, use of technology such as ICT and innovations in FBLS enterprises of interest to the youth.



Way forward

Kenya youth agribusiness strategy 2019-2022 provides guidelines and intervention area for increasing the engagement of young people in agribusiness. To domesticate national strategy, County agribusiness youth programs are being developed by each county government. Review these plans to mainstream FBLS based enterprises for the youth.

Complete the research by establishing whether and how involving youth in livelihood enterprises translates to increased participation in catchment conservation activities and report in next FBLS symposium.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



Data sources consulted

Giz/ MoWI-Gender mainstreaming in water resources management report 2013/14

WRA- WB NRM Tana and Lake Victoria North Water Basin Catchment –based livelihoods enhancement programme

IFAD/ GOK- Upper Tana survey report on why youth shun water resource management activities 2017/18

Does Agriculture really pay- scoping study on youth participation in agriculture Siaya, Bungoma and Kakamega, April 2018 by Giz

MoALF&I- SDCCD- Enable youth baseline survey report 2018

Land reclamation TRP and GRP progress reports 2008-2018

Giz FSDRP-flood based irrigation in Asal counties of Marsabit and Turkana

ICRAF/ GoK, FBLS project reports for Turkana, Busia/ Siaya, Kajiado and Tana River

ASDSP PSP best practices report 2017 – pasture production





DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS, CLARIFICATIONS, COMPLEMENTS